

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1

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These comments are in response to FCC Proceeding 98-143 regarding the proposed amendments to Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules.

Comments Provided by:

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While I agree that an unnecessary overlap exists in the area of Novice and Technician class licenses, I don't necessarily agree with the FCC's proposal to simplify this. I also think the Advanced class license is unnecessary. It is my opinion that a system consisting of 3 classes would be more appropriate. I also believe that there is still a place for Morse code in Amateur Radio and that these requirements should not be dropped from the license testing. I would be in agreement with a slight reduction in the Morse code requirements and some **limited** HF voice, digital and even CW opportunities for the license that does not require Morse code testing. I believe that the slower speed CW operators need a designated area where they can find mostly slower operators, as is the case with today's Novice frequencies.

The license structure I would propose would be something like this. (Name them as you will)

Novice Class: No Morse Code Testing requirements, Theory testing similar to today's Technician. Additional written questions on the use of Morse code and Morse code operating practice. Privileges include Current Technician Privileges and some very limited HF band allocations for voice, digital and CW modes only at a 200 watt power restriction. (Keep the current Novice CW areas intact or maybe shrink them a little. This will allow current Novices to continue to use CW in this area and new Novices to experiment with CW here if they choose to.)

General Class: 5-7 WPM Morse code testing (Solid copy method). Theory testing and operating privileges is the same as today's General Class.

Extra Class: 15 WPM Morse code testing (Solid Copy method). Theory testing and operating privileges is the same as today's Extra Class.

Do the following to deal with all existing licenses.

1. All current Novices and Technicians would inherit the new Novice class privileges.
2. All current Technician Plus licensees would become members of the new General Class.
3. Current Advanced licensees would retain their current privileges but issue no more of these.
4. Current Extra licensees would equate to the new Extra class.

Additionally, I would suggest adding more written questions to all licensing tests about normal and courteous operating practices in all modes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Tom Brown, KA2RRR